

To All,

As we are reminded to stay vigilant and report anything that may look suspicious or unusual, it is sometimes difficult to know what is suspicious or unusual. I say this in part because the one thing we do not want to do is solely use nationality or race as a determining factor to decide if something is suspicious or unusual. As an example, if you observed a white male taking a photograph of a shipping yard in San Francisco, you may think he is a tourist on vacation. On the other hand, if you see a Middle Eastern gentleman taking pictures of the same area, you may think this is suspicious or unusual behavior. The key factor that should begin your suspicion is "a person taking pictures", and then any other circumstances that may add or subtract from the observation. You should be very detailed in your observation noting any specific events that could further clarify a person(s) actions.

Some observation techniques that one could use is to write down or make mental notes of the time of day, date, location, weather, special events occurring, vehicle description, clothes being worn, physical features of the individual, direction of camera, item being photographed, description of other individuals, if any speech accents, supporting equipment in the car or on the person(s), any nervous behaviors, cell phone use, etc.

If you approach a person for further clarification it should never be in a confrontational manner. If they are on your property, and you feel you must talk to them, it should always be in a friendly manner with the comment "can I help you". If you do not believe you should approach this individual and you believe there is enough suspicious behavior to warrant further investigation, you should call the local police and let them determine if any further investigation is required.

All of this begs the question; what does a possible terrorist look like?

By now you've probably seen the email about who should be the target of profiling, in an attempt to protect the US from terrorists. The email is a multiple choice quiz, listing a number of terrorist actions over the past few decades, ranging from the September 11 attacks to the Olympics massacre at Munich. The

answer to each of the questions is simple: "Muslim male extremists between the ages of 18 and 35".

It sounds like the answer to all of our security issues. If it is so easy to define the demographics of a terrorist, then we should be able to screen out the terrorists. But it isn't as simple as that.

You can no longer assume the sex of a terrorist to be male. Israel has been attacked by both male and female homicide bombers. (Reem Raiyishi was the mother of two children, an infant and a toddler.) In fact, a few weeks ago they were attacked by a hermaphroditic homicide bomber.

You can no longer assume that a terrorist will fall into the 18-35 year age group. Terrorists are getting younger and younger. Children as young as twelve, some willingly and others unknowingly, have attempted bombings in Israel.

So what does a terrorist look like? Most of us instantly bring to mind images of Mohamed Atta or Osama Bin Laden when we think of terrorists. Or you may think of the crazed look in the eyes of the wannabe shoe bomber, Richard Reed, who was hogtied by the passengers of the plane he tried to blow up over the Atlantic.

But Mohamed Atta, Marwan Al Shehi, and the seventeen other young men who hijacked airplanes on September 11 didn't arouse any suspicion. They didn't look or act crazy, at least not until they started killing people on the airplanes. In fact, you can almost guarantee that your Islamic radicals are going to be extremely polite.

If we can't count on a terrorist to look or act crazy, or even be a man, then how are we going to recognize a terrorist? That's the problem law enforcement faces on a daily basis.

This week, a number of new Al Qaeda videos were released on the Arabic language jihad boards, showing the new face of Al Qaeda.

These new jihads are Muslim male extremists, but they aren't from the Middle East. The ones in the video are soft spoken, well educated young men from Great Britain. One of them is a medical student.

This may be the dominant face of Al Qaeda's Army.

This video was released with a series of other videos of training camps, which the videos claim are in Bosnia.

Much has been discussed about the ways in which the Islamists have recruited heavily among the disenfranchised populations in prisons, impoverished neighborhoods, and ethnic communities.

But the new face that Al Qaeda often sports could easily be a person from the upper middle class, or even wealthy, Caucasian. How do you recognize a terrorist? Not by what they look like, but by their suspicious and/or unusual actions and behaviors.

Thanks,

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"Physical Security is not a Destination, but a Journey"